

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Erik E. EMSTAD et al. Confirmation No.: 3659

Serial No.: 10/726,329 Examiner: James L. Swiger III

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Docket No.: 1292.1228101 Customer No.: 28075

Title: SPINAL ACCESS INSTRUMENT

AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT

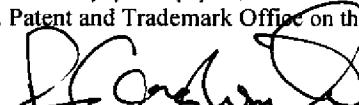
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The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 6th day of May, 2009.

By 

Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed March 17, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on June 17, 2009. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.